

**Recreation Commission Minutes
Oct 15, 2014**

Acting Chairman Dan Bavuso called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM

Attendance:

Chairman John Lembeck – Absent; Commissioners: Daniel Bavuso - Acting Chair, Kerry Chandler, Jim Dengler, Sharon Greener, and Robert McGinty were present. Mike Cecil arrived at 7:50pm. Borough Administrator Tom Rogers, Councilman Ben Day and Recreation Director Sarah Orsay were also present.

Public comment portion:

There were no comments from the public.

Chairman's Announcements

None

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Dengler raised the motion to approve the September 22 minutes, Ms. Greener seconded, and all approved.

Reports

Parks

Mr. Rogers had investigated the cost of covering the Meadow Ridge path with stone dust, as requested at the prior meeting. Due to the labor and huge volume of material involved, the total cost would be approximately \$50,000. Mr. Rogers recommended doing a “quick fix” of the degraded areas of the path around Meadow Ridge West and Meadow Ridge East fields, which the Commission agreed. Mr. Rogers will get pricing estimates on this.

Ms. Orsay reported that the Meadow Ridge East will be closed for the season on Monday, October 27 for sodding the worn areas. The field will be seeded and aerated along with the other Rumson Borough fields on November 12.

Ms. Orsay also reported that Mr. Wellner will meet with Precise to get an estimate on re-grading Victory Park playground area, necessary before any equipment replacement is undertaken. After which Ms. Orsay will set up a meeting with a playground designer for the Recreation Commission Parks Sub-Committee.

Programs

RFH Flag Football – Mr. Bavuso reported that the season is going great. The RFH Flag night on 9/26 organized by Scott Marchakitus at the RFH Varsity home game was a success. There was a nice turnout and the parents and kids enjoyed it. In addition, the Refs are all experienced and doing a great job and Assistant Coordinator Rick Brandt has been a huge help and is a great addition to the program.

Soccer – Ms. Orsay reported that the rec soccer season is also going well, although disappointing to miss two weekends in a row due to rain. However, October 18th is the Town Tournament for grades 3-8 and the forecast looks good. Grades 1 & 2 have the first round of their first ever World Cup competition, which the coaches, parents and kids are looking forward to. Ms Orsay praised resident Robert Butters for his dedication, skill and enthusiasm in organizing and running the Kindergarten and Pee Wee soccer programs. The program has received rave reviews across the board.

Recreation Commission Minutes
Oct 15, 2014

Ms. Orsay also requested that the Commission approve the purchase of new, less expensive soccer jerseys for grades 3-8 each year, jerseys that would be replaced annually and the participants allowed to keep at the end of the each season, similar to other leagues. Ms Orsay posited that the cost is not significantly different than reusing a more expensive uniform for several years, but the time and effort involved in collecting, cleaning, sorting and distributing re-usable uniforms each year is significant. As an added bonus, the children could wear the jerseys after the season, which is also a good advertisement for the program. Mr. Bavuso raised a motion that participants keep their jerseys this year and that Recreation purchase new jerseys each year. Mr. McGinty seconded the motion and all approved.

Crew – Mr. Bavuso announced that Alyson Raywood, RFH '13 Rowing member, tragically passed away after a long illness. The last video she watched was the dedication ceremony of the Vespoli 8 boat in her honor, the Alyson Raywood.

The fall crew season finished with the Head of the Navesink regatta on October 19th. Mr. Bavuso reported that it was a good season overall, despite the challenge of not having a full time coach, but rather relying on the Director of rowing, 3 volunteer coaches and 3 assistant coaches. In general, the athletes had good weather, resulting in a lot of time on the water.

Ms. Orsay asked the Commission for approval on Head Coach Mike Lehman's proposal for the Winter Conditioning program, expanded from prior years: Mr. Lehman is proposing to begin workouts the first week of December through the third week of March, four times a week, including using the Christian Brothers Academy ("CBA") indoor tanks every other Saturday. Ms. Orsay updated the Commission on the explicit costs of running the program, including required staff, equipment maintenance, and facilities fees. The Commission approved the expanded program and set the registration fee with an eye toward keep the program as affordable as possible for families.

Basketball –Rec Basketball registration began October 7, a week later than anticipated as Ms. Orsay was waiting on space availability confirmation. Open registration runs through October 31 and the coaches' draft will be held on Saturday, November 15. Ms. Orsay reported that there are many returning volunteer coaches and she hoped to have pre-season Saturday practices for grades 3-8 in December, possibly clinic style, while the season will run January 5- March 7. Ms. Orsay also updated the Commission on current registration numbers and estimated numbers of teams. Currently, the program is structured for Rumson v Rumson only, but an inter-town league is available. The Girls 7/8 team(s) participate in this, for instance, since there is typically only one or two Rumson teams in this division. The Commissioners felt they prefer to remain an in-town only league (e.g., Rumson v Rumson) for divisions that have 4 teams or more and noted that in an 8 week season each team would play each other at most twice.

Travel Soccer – Mr. McGinty reported that the season was progressing smoothly thus far, but questioned Rec Soccer games being scheduled on Columbus Day, which is a popular travel soccer tournament day (as well as long weekend) and so might result in conflicts. Ms. Greener replied that Columbus Day Rec weekend games were scheduled as Rumson v Rumson games so that teams with significant conflicts could reschedule their games easily or borrow registered players. As it turned out, the Rec games that weekend were all cancelled due to rain.

Travel Basketball – Mr. Cecil reported that the Mid Monmouth basketball season for the older divisions is underway. He noted that RFH Athletic Director Chris Lanzalotto had been particularly helpful in allowing Rumson v Fair Haven games to be scheduled at the High School, which eased congestion for practice times at other gyms. In addition, RFH basketball coach and Rumson resident George Sourlis ran a coaching clinic earlier in the month. The clinic was excellent and well received and Mr. Cecil praised Coach Sourlis for volunteering his time for our coaches. Mr. Sourlis indicated that he would also run a coaching clinic for the rec coaches and suggested we schedule it on November 15, immediately following the coaches' draft. Finally, Mr. Cecil commented that he is creatively "making do" with the final year of the travel basketball uniforms, which are collected each year – both shorts and jerseys are high quality and reversible, making it significantly more cost effective to collect each year rather than ask participants

Recreation Commission Minutes
Oct 15, 2014

to purchase uniforms. Also, given the relatively few players compared to Rec Soccer, for instance, collection is less onerous.

Little League Baseball/Softball – Ms. Orsay reported on the most recent Two River Little League (“TRLL”) Board meeting. First, the Board voted to add five additional Board members, one from each town, as a softball representative. Ms. Orsay recommended that the Commission select RFH Coach and Fair Haven resident Heather Immesberger as the Rumson softball representative. Ms. Chandler raised that Ms. Immesberger be the Rumson softball rep, Mr. Cecil seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved. Second, the TRLL Board requested that softball registration be adjusted to conform to Little League standards, with a December 31 cutoff date. The result would be significantly different than using a grade cutoff as is traditional with Rec programs; however, TRLL would accept registration by grade also, as long as it is made known to participants that they may be ineligible for post-season play if they do not conform to the age requirements AND that there division is only playing the five TRLL towns in season (Rumson, FH, Little Silver, Shrewsbury, Red Bank) and not playing other Little League towns, (such as Lincroft, Eatontown, Tinton Falls, Middletown) which are strictly conforming to the age requirements. The Commission agreed to the altered registration with full disclosure to parents and also expressed their preference to keep in season play restricted to the TRLL towns as long as there were enough teams to form a TRLL only league. Registration for Softball and Baseball is anticipated to be January 1 – 31.

Travel Sports Policies – Ms Chandler, Mr. Cecil and Mr. McGinty continue to work on the Travel Policies document. The group discussed the following topics:

- Consistent Mission for all travel sports
- Travel program objectives
- Leagues and seasons of all travel programs
- Eligibility of participation
- Team selection process
- Practice commitment and tournament eligibility
- Playing time
- Impact of Borough sponsored Travel programs on Recreation programs and the participation and player attendance in both travel and rec teams
- Coach selection and approval process (voted on) as well as prerequisites and certification (includes background checks, concussion courses, and respective coaching certifications)
- The use of professional trainers including magnitude, costs, certification, liability, and effect of having non-parent volunteers on our travel programs
- Mandatory volunteer coach or parent representation at all practices including those using professional trainers
- Field/gym allocations and scheduling changes
- Process for handling complaints

The commission will continue to discuss these topics in 2015.

In terms of coach selection, Mr. Dengler raised the motion that all Rumson Recreation coaches, including current Rec-sponsored travel coaches, must be approved (or re-approved) by the Recreation Commission each season. Ms. Chandler seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved. Further, travel coaches are expected to encourage their team to actively participate in the recreation program.

Special Events – Ms. Orsay, Ms. Chandler, and Ms. Greener comprise the Special Events sub-Committee and as such are planning the Family Halloween Parade & Party to be held on Sunday, Oct 26 at 3.30pm-5.00pm. There will be a short parade, a Costume Contest, thematic activity tables & games, a Mad Science slime making booth, trick or

Recreation Commission Minutes
Oct 15, 2014

treat stations and refreshments. Ms. Chandler and Ms. Greener have recruited Key Club and Top Dawg volunteers from the local schools.

Projects – Ms. Orsay updated the Commission on two proposed programs to be conducted by Barnabas Health under a grant. The first would be a 45 minute presentation to coaches on the Protective Factor of Coaches in helping coaches understanding the importance of their role in kids' lives. The second would be a 5-10 week program for Middle Schoolers and would be taught in independent modules on Skills for Personal Resiliency. Ms. Orsay has proposed the idea to Forrestdale School Guidance Counselor Ms. Crow to offer after school once a week. Ms. Crow is seeking approval. These programs were introduced to Recreation by the Municipal Alliance and Alliance Member Councilman Ben Day.

Personnel – Closed session from 9.35 - 9.40pm. Mr. Bavuso updated the Commission on complaints against a travel coach and follow up actions taken.

Administrative

Late Fees – Given the Rec Commission's August decision to increase the Rec Registration Late Fee to \$50, Ms. Orsay proposed waiting to implement that until January 2015 and also proposed an Early Bird Discount for the first week of registration, to help counter balance the substantial Late Fee and further incent people to register early. A "You Pick Your Fee" approach – Early Discount, On Time, or Late Fee. Mr. Bavuso made a motion that this idea be passed, Ms. Chandler seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

External AEDs at Forrestdale & Deane Porter – Ms. Orsay announced that the schools had installed external AEDs and that we will make coaches aware of this fact.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Orsay reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Sharon Greener raised a motion that the Recreation Commission approve the annual \$2000 disbursement in support of the Rumson Senior Citizen's Club, Mr. Cecil seconded, and all voted in favor.

Old Business

Community e-bulletin Board – Ms. Orsay said she would work with Mr. Day to add an Around Town section to the Rumson Rec site for Rumson Recreation Commission approved flyers sponsored by third party organizations and independent of the Borough and Rumson Rec. This would help meet the demand for disseminating information on local community events.

New business

Code of Conduct / Mission Statement – Ms. Orsay distributed sample Codes and Mission statements from other Recreation departments for the Recreation Commission to consider whether or not Rumson's should be updated. The Commission will review and discuss in the November meeting.

Education & Communication - Several topics were raised that will be discussed at a future meeting including how best to communicate the RC's expectations to coaches and parents before the season and how to incorporate more coach training (e.g., child development and sport specific) for travel and recreation coaches.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov 22 at 7 PM at the Charles S Callman courtroom.

The meeting adjourned at 10.00 PM.

Recreation Commission Minutes
Oct 15, 2014

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Orsay